(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Employees of Indan Airlines are not eligible for any leave travel concession (LTC) Facility. However, the employees employed in the canteens of Indian Airlines are allowed LTC facility once in a block of two years up to a maximum of Rs. 450/- per member per family subject to a maximum of 4 family members including self, spouse, depednent children and dependent parents.

(b) Annual expenditure incurred as a result of granting LTC Facility to the employees of Indian Airlines Canteen is approx. Rs. 5.00 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The Canteen employees are, however, demanding free/concessional passages in lieu of LTC in their charter of Demands which is under negotiation between Indian Airlines management and respective union/association.

Relief measures to the victim of Island Express

696. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount released for rescue and relief measures to the victims of Island Express which got derailed and fell into the Ashtamudi Lake on 8th June, 1988;

(b) whether it is a fact that the amount was disbursed partly to the next kin of the victims of rail disaster and partly among Marxist workers by the District authorities who were in no way affected by the rail accident; and

(c) whether Government propose to investigate into the whole affairs to find out the truth and to punish the guilty?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MA-HABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Rs. 11,61,250/- has been paid as ex-gratia by Southern Railway to the injured passengers and dependents of the deceased.

(c) Does not arise.

Vessels from Netherland to Inland waterways authority of India

697. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Netherland have provided some vessels to the Inland Waterways Authority of India;

(b) if so, in what manner the Inland Waterways Authority of India is likely to make best use of these vessels and the locations where these will be utilised; and

(c) to what extent the efficiency of the Inland Waterways Authority would be boosted as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) The IWAI is obtaining from Netherlands four vessels namely—one dredger, one survey launch, one work boat and one shallow draft cargo vessel under the bilateral assistance programme. These vessels will be used in the Pilot Project designed to evaluate the navigability of the Ganga between Patna and Allahabad.

Aircrafts rounded by National Airlines

698. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of aircrafts grounded by the National airlines, monthwise, make-wise and region-wise, during the last six months;

(b) whether the airlines have taken any measures to avoid the often repeated change in Schedules of flights; and

(c) whether the aircraft contracted to be purchased are being delivered according to the originally accepted norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND